

Ruth: Loyal Love and a Future Restored

Grief brings Naomi back to Bethlehem with little reason to expect a new beginning. Ruth, her Moabite daughter-in-law, chooses to remain with her. Their story invites us to notice how loyal love takes shape in the daily work of caring for another person.

Click to listen: Ruth Explained: Covenant Love, Redemption, and the Family of Promise

A commitment that becomes action

Ruth 1 places the story in the days of the judges. Naomi has lost her husband and sons. Ruth also knows widowhood, yet her commitment reaches beyond a family tie: she joins herself to Naomi, Naomi's people, and Naomi's God. This is a costly decision to share an uncertain future.

Room in the harvest

In Ruth 2, that commitment leads into a field. Gleaning means gathering grain left after the harvest. Leviticus 19:9-10 and Deuteronomy 24:19-22 instruct Israel to leave provision for people in need, including the foreigner and widow. Boaz's welcome gives these instructions a personal face. Ruth receives protection, water, food, and room to work.

A family's future

The story then turns toward a family redeemer: a close relative who can help protect the family's land and future. Ruth 3 raises questions that the survey leaves open rather than resolving every detail. Ruth 4 brings the family's situation into a public setting, where Boaz acts and the community bears witness.

From loss toward hope

The closing scene places a child in Naomi's care and names the family line leading to David. Matthew 1:5-6 later names Ruth and Boaz in the genealogy leading to Jesus. We read this movement as part of God's faithful work through Israel, in which a woman from Moab has a real and named place. Ruth's belonging does not erase Israel's story; it draws her into it.

Read and reflect

Read Ruth 1-4, then compare Ruth 2 with the harvest instructions in Leviticus 19:9-10 and Deuteronomy 24:19-22. Follow Ruth 4's family line into Matthew 1:5-6. Where does loyal love become a concrete act of protection, provision, or commitment? Consider one faithful way you can make room for another person today.

Source notes

Primary reading: Ruth 1-4; Matthew 1:5-6. Further context: Genesis 12:3; Judges 2:11-19; Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19-22. This article paraphrases and interprets Scripture; it contains no direct biblical quotation. MMAB's study text is the Berean Standard Bible, third printing. The program's proposed dates, author, and composition setting remain tentative: Ruth names neither its author nor its writing date. The wider covenant and redeemer connections are MMAB's theological interpretation. No extrabiblical record of the individual Ruth is claimed. The preserved older reading at about 17:17 in the program is not relabeled as a verbatim BSB quotation.

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